

Appl. No. : 10/648,971
Filed : August 27, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A modular electronic system using a tongue and groove arrangement to restrain motion of electronic modules, the modular electronic system comprising:

an equipment rack with a plurality of openings for receiving electronic modules, wherein an opening is defined by a left side wall, a right side wall, and a bottom surface, where the left side wall has a first side and a second side, ~~where the first side faces the opening, where the second side is opposite the first side and does not face the opening, and where the left side wall~~ and further defines a first groove on the first side of the left side wall disposed a first height above the bottom surface and a second groove on the second side of the left side wall at a second height above the bottom, the second height different than the first height, where the right side wall further defines a third groove disposed the second height above the bottom surface, where the first groove faces the opening and the second groove does not face the opening; and

a plurality of electronic modules with housings adapted to slidably couple into openings of the equipment rack, where a housing for an electronic module further comprises at least a left side wall and a right side wall, where the left side wall of the electronic module comprises a first tongue that is adapted to slidably mate with the first groove in a corresponding left side wall of the equipment rack, and where the right side wall of the electronic module comprises a second tongue that is adapted to slidably mate with the third groove in a corresponding right side wall of the equipment rack.

2. (Original) The modular electronic system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the opening in the equipment rack that is defined by the left side wall, the right side wall, and the bottom surface does not have an upper surface for restraining vertical movement of an electronic module.

3. (Original) The modular electronic system as defined in Claim 1, wherein a first side of a single side wall defines the left side wall with the first groove for the opening, and where a second side of the single side wall defines a right side wall with a second groove for a second opening.

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4. (Original) The modular electronic system as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the electronic modules corresponds to a power supply.

5. (Currently amended) An equipment rack for holding electronic modules, the equipment rack comprising:

a plurality of bottom walls;

a plurality of side walls, where a space between side walls and a bottom wall defines an opening for an electronic module, where at least one side wall has a first surface and a second surface, where the first surface and the second surface are on opposite sides of the at least one side wall;

a first groove on the first surface of the at least one side wall, where the first groove is displaced by a first amount from [[a]] the bottom wall of a corresponding opening, and the first groove faces the opening; and

a second groove on the second surface of the at least one side wall, where the second groove is displaced by a second amount from [[a]] the bottom wall of a corresponding opening and the second groove faces an adjacent opening, where the second amount is different from the first amount.

6. (Previously presented) The equipment rack as defined in Claim 5, wherein an opening in the equipment rack that is defined in the space between the first surface of a first side wall, a second surface of a second side wall, and a bottom surface does not have an upper surface for restraining vertical movement of an electronic module disposed therein.

7. (Original) The equipment rack as defined in Claim 5, wherein the first side of the side wall and the second side of the side wall comprise opposite sides of a single wall.

8. (Currently amended) A side wall separating first and second adjacent openings in an equipment rack that is adapted to hold electronic modules, the side wall comprising:

a first side;

a second side of the same side wall as the first side, where the second side is a reverse side of the first side;

a first groove defined in the first side and facing the first opening; and

a second groove defined in the second side and facing the second opening, wherein the second groove is at a different height than the first groove.

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9. (Original) The side wall as defined in Claim 8, wherein the side wall is fabricated from a single sheet of metal.

10. (Original) The side wall as defined in Claim 8, where the first groove on the first side is adapted to mate with a first tongue on a first side of an electronic module, and where the second groove on the second side is adapted to mate with a second tongue on a second side of another electronic module, where the second side is opposite to the first side.

11. (Previously presented) A housing for an electronic module that is adapted to slide into an opening in an equipment rack, the housing comprising:

a rear side adapted to interface with the equipment rack via at least one connector;

a front side;

a top;

a bottom;

a first side wall with a first tongue, where the first tongue is at a first height with reference to the bottom, where the first tongue extends outward from the first side wall, where the first tongue is adapted to slidably couple into a first groove of a corresponding wall of an equipment rack; and

a second side wall opposite the first side wall, the second side wall having a second tongue that is adapted to slidably couple into a second groove of a corresponding wall of the equipment rack, where the second tongue extends outward from the second side wall, where the second tongue is at a second height with reference to the bottom, where the second height is different from the first height, and where there is no tongue on the second side wall at the first height.

12. (Original) The housing for the electronic module as defined in Claim 11, wherein the electronic module corresponds to a power supply.

13. (Original) The housing for the electronic module as defined in Claim 11, wherein the at least one connector comprises a plurality of connectors.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) A power supply that embodies the housing of Claim 11.

16. (New) The modular electronic system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the left side wall is formed with a single wall thickness.

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17. (New) The equipment rack as defined in Claim 5, wherein the at least one side wall is formed with a single wall thickness.

18. (New) The side wall as defined in Claim 9, wherein the side wall fabricated from the single sheet of metal is formed with a single wall thickness.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW OF JUNE 17, 2005

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None.

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 1, 5, 8, and 11.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 5,808,867 to Wang, et al., and U.S. Patent No. 6,388,875 to Chen, et al.

Proposed Amendments

Applicant's representatives ("Applicant") and the Examiner discussed amendments to Claims 1, 5, and 8. With respect to Claims 1 and 5, Applicant agreed to amend the claims with reference to the orientation of the grooves. With respect to Claim 8, Applicant agreed to clarify that the side walls separate first and second adjacent openings.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

None.

Results of Interview

Applicant and the Examiner agreed on terminology that distinguishes over the cited art.